GLENN DANZIG LIAM SHARP

FRANK FRAZETTA

DEATH DEALER®

IN THE DISTANCE, A BLACK SPECK APPROACHES...
CLOSER... CLOSER COMES...
...THE DEATH DEALER!!

HIS QUEST OF VENGEANCE... VENGEANCE FOR BETRAYAL AND HIS OWN MURDER... THIS VENGEANCE HAS LED HIM HERE!

He dismounts his uncanny beast-horse... purposefully striding forward...
The very air around him crackles and changes...
This is the place he seeks!

I HAVE SENSED YOUR ARRIVAL FOR WEEKS.
TELL ME MY FUTURE, OLD ONE.
YOU HAVE NONE... YOUR FUTURE IS DEATH.
ARE YOU NOT THE DEATH DEALER?

"SPEAK NOT THE OBVIOUS, OLD WITCH... ELSE I SNAP YOUR SCRAWNY NECK!
"NOW... TELL ME!"
IT IS AS I SAY... NEVER SHALL YOU KNOW LOVE OR TENDERNESS... THESE YOU WILL NOT KNOW...
PAIN... BLOOD... THE SCREAMS OF THE DEAD... THESE THINGS ARE YOURS...

"AND GLADLY DO I ACCEPT THEM, CRONE... BUT I WISH TO KNOW OF KHRONON."
KHRONON... HE WHO GAVE THE ORDER TO BEHEAD YOU...
THEN KNOW YOU THIS, DEATH DEALER... AND LISTEN CLOSELY...
HE LEFT... HER WORDS STILL ECHOING IN HIS HEAD...

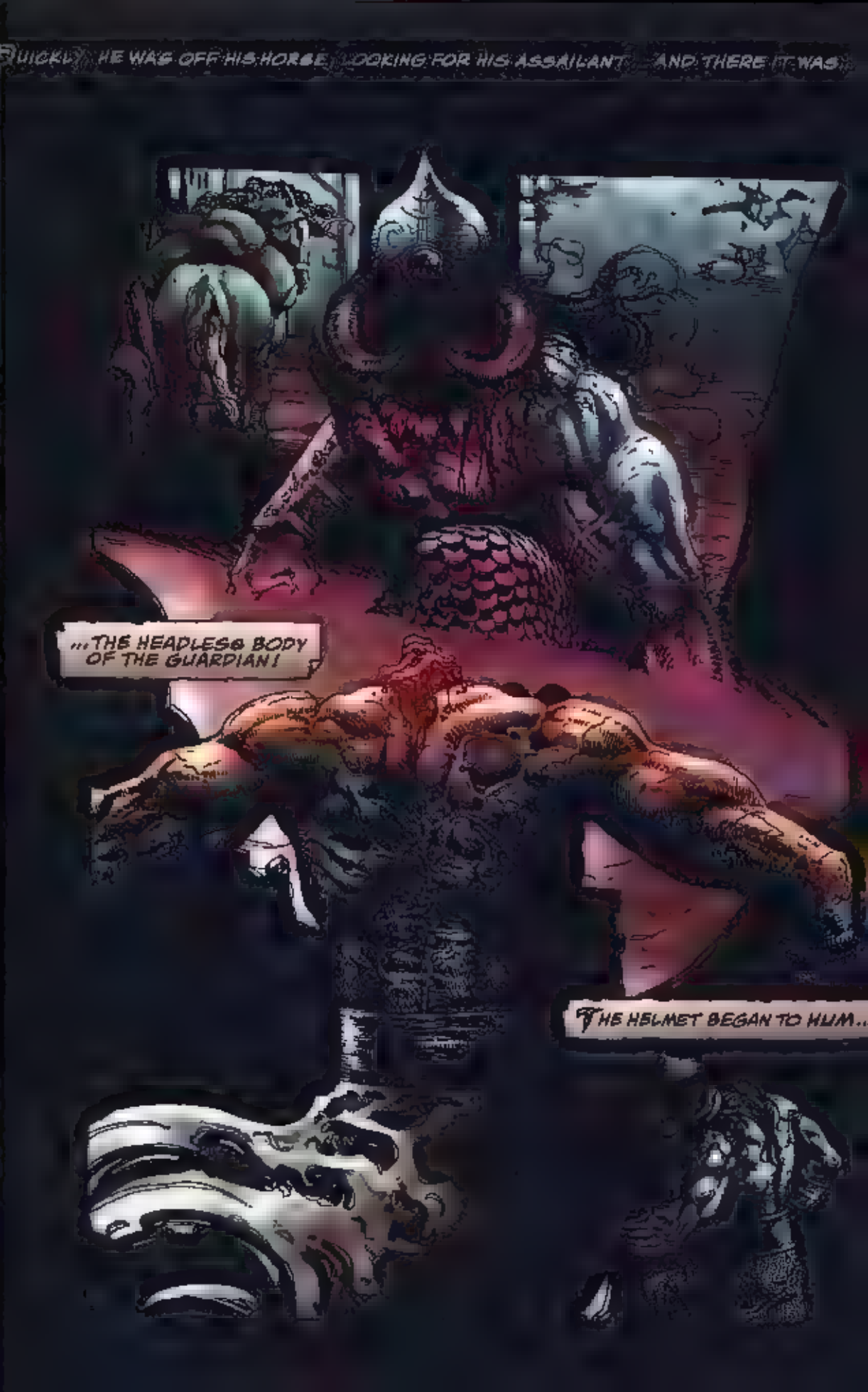
"TO THE EAST, LIES KHRONON AND HIS ARMY...
"FOLLOW THE TRAIL CUT IN MOUNTAIN... FOLLOW IT DOWN...
"THERE YOUR QUEST WILL END... OR BEGIN!"

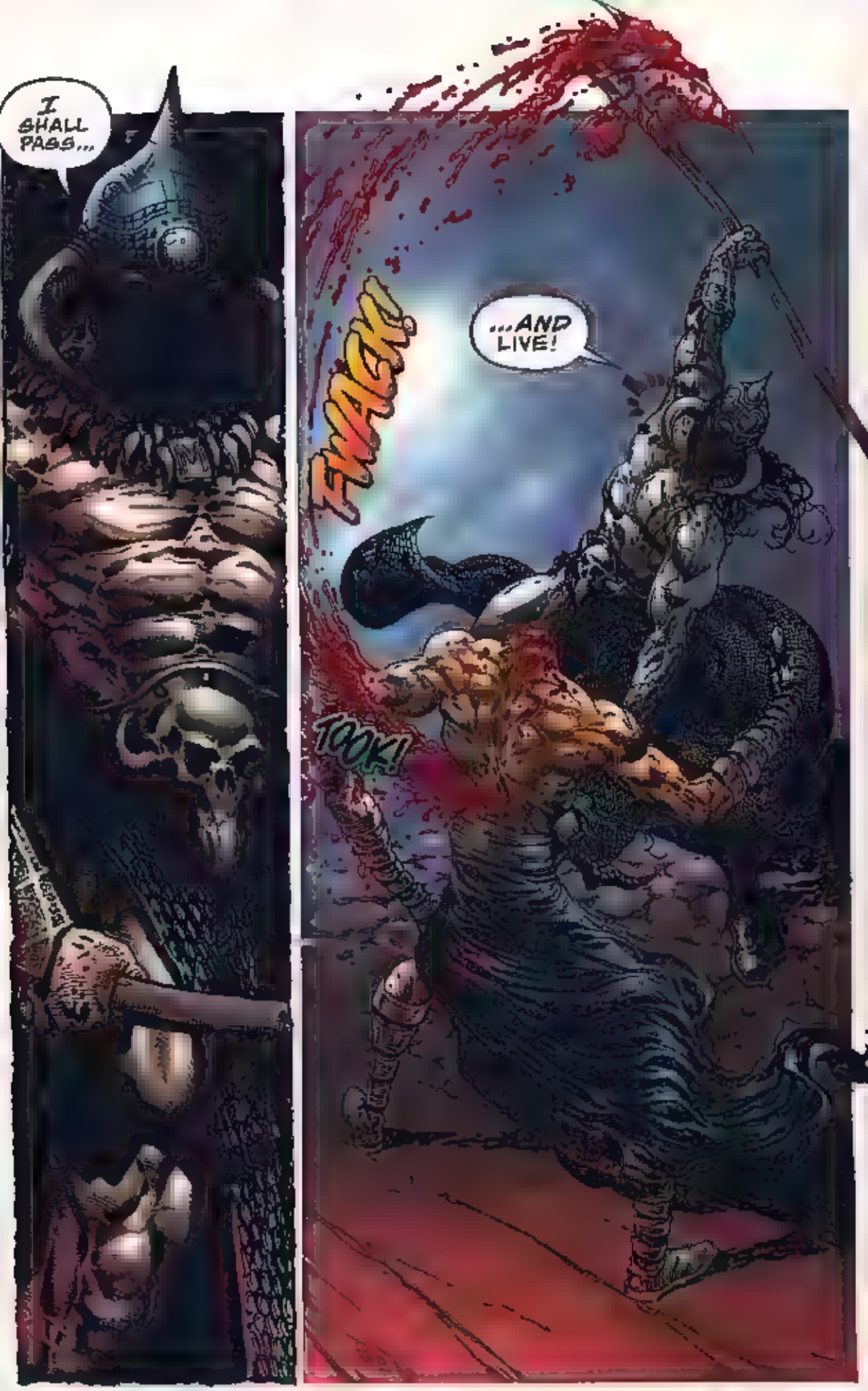
TURN... GO BACK...
NONE MAY PASS AND LIVE!
MOVE ASIDE!
KUK!

THOUGH THE HEAD LAY SEVERED...
...THE BODY OF SOLEMN GUARDIAN SLOWLY RISES.
...AND FOLLOWS IT'S PREY QUIETLY.

'T LEAPS, LANDING ATOP ITS QUARRY AND SLAMS ITS DAGGER DEEP INTO THE NECK OF THE WARRIOR!

THE DECAPITATED SENTRY TURNED... AND THERE FROM ITS BELLY, INCREDIBLY, GREW ANOTHER HEA
NONE MAY PASS AND LIVE!


QUICKLY, HE WAS OFF HIS HORSE, LOOKING FOR HIS ASSAILANT... AND THERE IT WAS!
...THE HEADLESS BODY OF THE GUARDIAN!
THE HELMET BEGAN TO HUM...


I SHALL PASS...
...AND LIVE!
SWACK
TOOK!

AND WITH ANOTHER BLOW, THE DEATH DEALER SINKS HIS AXE DEEP INTO THE CREATURE'S TORSO!
FOR YOU WILL DIE!
CHUNK!
INSTANTLY FROM THE GAPING WOUND, MORE HEADS BEGIN TO SPROUT!
CAN-NOT DIE!
NOT DIE!
NOT DIE!
I CANNOT DIE!
I CANNOT DIE!
I CANNOT DIE!

THE HEADS SPRING OUT ONE AFTER ANOTHER...THE HELMET HUMS AS THE EYES WITHIN GLOW!
KILL ME IF YOU CAN!
WE SHALL SEE, DEMON!
KILL ME IF YOU CAN!

IF YOU CAN!
IF YOU CAN!

His forearm guided the axe...
HA!
SHAAK!
HA!
...severing head upon head!
YOU WILL DIE!
YOU WILL DIE!
HA!
WHUK!
Still the undying sentry laughed mockingly
LOST!
YOU HAVE LOST!
LOST!

HE STOPS... AND SLOWLY RAISES THE AXE'S BLADE TILL IT CENTERS THE HELMET'S VISION!
THE HELMET WAS GUIDING HIM... IT WAS TELLING HIM WHERE--

--TO STRIKE!!
HE HAD FOUND THE TRUE HEAD... BURIED DEEP, DEEP INSIDE THE HIDEOUS MAL-FORMATION OF APPENDAGES AND FACES..
...ITS FACE WAS THAT OF A BEAUTIFUL FEMALE!

DO YOU FEEL MY PRESENCE, KHRONON?
"KNOW YOU THAT I FINALLY COME .
"... AND WOE TO ANY WHO STAND IN THE PATH ... OF THE DEATH DEALER!"

AN ARROW SUNG INTO HIM... HE SPUN TO FACE HIS SILENT ATTACKERS!
FSH!
THESE SLAUGHTERED CORPSE
WERE ONLY BUT SOME~
SHOOK!

--OF THE THRONGS THAT NOW POURED DOWN UPON HIM!
YOU GO NO FURTHER!

THE AXE WAG ALREADY MOVING, LIKE A HUNGRY, MAD ANIMAL IT HACKED AND SLICED... PRECISE... RELENTLESS...
UGK!
FWISH!
HE IS BUT ONE ...KILL HIM!

But his thoughts were not of numbers... he thought only of killing... and retribution!
CHOK!
UUAAAH!
HE IS A DEVIL!
Dead upon dead... their lifeless husks piled up...

NONE WOULD STAND IN THE WAY OF THE HELMET'S VENGEANCE!
NONE!!
THE DWINDLING ARMY WAS SHAKEN AND ASTONISHED... NEVER HAD THEY SEEN SUCH A WARRIOR!!

HIS WOUNDS... HIS BLEEDING BODY... THESE THINGS MEANT NOTHING TO HIM... AND THEY DID NOT SEEM TO SLOW HIS ARM OR DULL HIS REFLEXES... THEY ONLY MADE HIM STRONGER AND MORE DETERMINED!!
DIE! UKK! WHY WON'T YOU DIE?

FINALLY IT STOPPED... THERE HE STOOD ATOP A MOUNTAIN OF BLOODY, FLESHY DEBRIS THAT WAS ONCE HUMAN LIFE...

THE HELMET WAS PLEASED... ITS GAZE SPANNING OUT...
...OVER THE TWISTING SEA OF MANGLED BODIES...
...AND THERE IT WAS! ... THE HORSE...
...APPEARING, SEEMINGLY, OUT OF NOWHERE, LIKE A BLACK PHANTOM... WAITING!!

OUT OF THE CORNER OF HIS EYE HE NOTICED ANOTHER DARK FIGURE... WAITING...
THE HELMET SPUN TO FACE IT... ON THE OPPOSING MOUNTAIN CLIFF...
...HIS MEMORY NOW CRYSTALLINE...
IT WAS HIM!!

HE PLUMMETED DOWN ON THE SCORES AND SCORES OF VANQUISHED AND FALLEN... SOME HALF-ALIVE AS THE HOOVES OF HIS DEMON-HORSE DUG INTO THEIR FLESH CRUNCHING BONE WITH EVERY STEP!
KRRK
SNAP
AGGH

THE HELMET VIBRATED; WITH EACH STEP THAT BROUGHT HIM CLOSER, THE HELMET GREW THAT MUCH MORE IMPATIENT... IT COULD HOLD BACK THE BURNING ANXIETY NO LONGER!
KHRONON!!
THE DARK RIDER ON THE HILL ACKNOWLEDGED AND RACED DOWN, THE DEATH DEALER CHARGING TO MEET HIM..
I WANT YOU!!

THE TWO HORSES CAREEN PAST EACH OTHER, SIDE BY SIDE... THEIR MANES BLACK DANCING FIRE... HIS OPPONENT'S SWORD DIGS DEEP INTO THE DEATH DEALER'S CHEST, KNOCKING HIM BACK FROM HIS MOUNT...

THIS CANNOT BE... THAT BLOW WOULD HAVE CUT ANY NORMAL MAN IN TWO... IT CAN'T BE YOU!!
WITH MY OWN EYES I SAW YOU DIE! I CARRIED OFF YOUR HEAD MYSELF!!
I HAVE COME BACK, KHRONON ... BACK FOR REVENGE!!

THE DISBELIEVING KHRONON ATTACKS FURIOUSLY!
THEN THIS TIME I SHALL KILL YOU MYSELF!!

THE ARC OF HIS AXE IS SWIFT AND UNSEEN, ONE FLUID MOTION!
THE HELMET GLOWS...
SO... YOU ARE HE...! I WILL NOT BEG FOR MY LIFE! COME... FINISH IT!!

WITHOUT A WORD, THE DEATH DEALER, IN ONE CLEAN SWEEP, BEHEADS HIS FOE!!

AS HE KNEELS, HOLDING HIS LONG-AWAITED PRIZE, THE ONLY SOUND IS OF A HEADLESS BODY, HISSING BLOOD MISTILY IN THE WIND.